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Attorney Docket No. WILS-008

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**APPLICATION**

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**FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT**

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**SPECIFICATION**

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18 TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

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*Buzz B. Wilson* (B.W)

20 BE IT KNOWN THAT I, Bryan B. Wilson, a citizen of the United States, have  
21 invented a new and useful hammock system of which the following is a specification:

22

23

## **Hammock System**

## **CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

Not applicable to this application.

**STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY  
SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT**

Not applicable to this application.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

## Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to hammock devices and more specifically it relates to a hammock system for allowing an individual to efficiently enter and exit the hammock in a safe manner.

## Description of the Related Art

27 Hammocks have been in use for years. Typically, a hammock is comprised of a  
28 netting structure wherein the opposing ends thereof are attached to opposing

1 structures. U.S. Patent No. 816,340 teaches an exemplary hammock supported within  
2 a frame structure.

3

4 The individual entering the hammock must enter the hammock in a careful  
5 manner attempting to position their body immediately within the center portion of the  
6 hammock to avoid falling out of the hammock. However, this can be extremely  
7 difficult to accomplish for many individuals, particularly individuals of limited  
8 physical ability and overweight individuals.

9

10 While conventional hammocks may be suitable for the particular purpose to  
11 which they address, they are not as suitable for allowing an individual to efficiently  
12 enter and exit the hammock in a safe manner. Conventional hammocks are unsafe and  
13 difficult to exit and enter.

14

15 In these respects, the hammock system according to the present invention  
16 substantially departs from the conventional concepts and designs of the prior art, and  
17 in so doing provides an apparatus primarily developed for the purpose of allowing an  
18 individual to efficiently enter and exit the hammock in a safe manner.

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20

## **BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

In view of the foregoing disadvantages inherent in the known types of hammocks now present in the prior art, the present invention provides a new hammock system construction wherein the same can be utilized for allowing an individual to efficiently enter and exit the hammock in a safe manner.

The general purpose of the present invention, which will be described subsequently in greater detail, is to provide a new hammock system that has many of the advantages of the hammocks mentioned heretofore and many novel features that result in a new hammock system which is not anticipated, rendered obvious, suggested, or even implied by any of the prior art hammocks, either alone or in any combination thereof.

To attain this, the present invention generally comprises a support frame, and a cradle frame having opposing ends pivotally attached to the support frame. The cradle frame has a middle section surrounded by two opposing side sections, wherein the side sections are at an angle with respect to the middle section forming a concave structure. A mattress is preferably positioned upon the cradle frame. A catch member may be attached to the support frame and removably connected to the cradle frame to retain the cradle frame in a sofa position.

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and that will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

1        In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the invention in  
2 detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the  
3 details of construction and to the arrangements of the components set forth in the  
4 following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable of other  
5 embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be  
6 understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose  
7 of the description and should not be regarded as limiting.

8

9        A primary object of the present invention is to provide a hammock system that  
10 will overcome the shortcomings of the prior art devices.

11

12        A second object is to provide a hammock system for allowing an individual to  
13 efficiently enter and exit the hammock in a safe manner.

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15        Another object is to provide a hammock system that does not require significant  
16 physical effort to enter or exit compared to a conventional hammock.

17

18        An additional object is to provide a hammock system that is convertible  
19 between a hammock position and a sofa position.

20

21        A further object is to provide a hammock system that is comfortable and easy to  
22 utilize.

23

24        Other objects and advantages of the present invention will become obvious to the  
25 reader and it is intended that these objects and advantages are within the scope of the  
26 present invention.

27

28        To the accomplishment of the above and related objects, this invention may be  
29 embodied in the form illustrated in the accompanying drawings, attention being called

1 to the fact, however, that the drawings are illustrative only, and that changes may be  
2 made in the specific construction illustrated and described within the scope of the  
3 appended claims.

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2                   **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

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4       Various other objects, features and attendant advantages of the present  
5 invention will become fully appreciated as the same becomes better understood when  
6 considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference  
7 characters designate the same or similar parts throughout the several views, and  
8 wherein:

9

10       FIG. 1 is an upper perspective view of the present invention.

11

12       FIG. 2 is an upper perspective view of the present invention in a rotated  
13 position for entering or exiting.

14

15       FIG. 3 is an upper perspective view of the present invention with the mattress  
16 removed.

17

18       FIG. 4 is a top view of the present invention with the mattress removed.

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20       FIG. 5 is a side view of the present invention with the mattress removed.

21

22       FIG. 6 is an end view of the present invention with the mattress removed.

23

24       FIG. 7 is an end view of the present invention illustrating the entry or exit  
25 position of the cradle frame.

26

27       FIG. 8 is an end view of the present invention rotated and locked into a sofa  
28 position by a catch member.

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2                   **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

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4    *A. Overview*

5                 Turning now descriptively to the drawings, in which similar reference  
6 characters denote similar elements throughout the several views, FIGS. 1 through 8  
7 illustrate a hammock system **10**, which comprises a support frame **20**, and a cradle  
8 frame **30** having opposing ends pivotally attached to the support frame **20**. The cradle  
9 frame **30** has a middle section **31** surrounded by two opposing side sections **33**,  
10 wherein the side sections **33** are at an angle with respect to the middle section **31**  
11 forming a concave structure. A mattress **60** is preferably positioned upon the cradle  
12 frame **30**. A catch member **40** may be attached to the support frame **20** and removably  
13 connected to the cradle frame **30** to retain the cradle frame **30** in a sofa position.

14

15   *B. Support Frame*

16                 The support frame **20** is comprised of a rigid structure capable of supporting the  
17 cradle frame **30**, a mattress **60** and a person positioned upon the mattress **60** as best  
18 illustrated in Figures 3 through 7 of the drawings. The support frame **20** includes a  
19 plurality of legs **22**, a center member extending between the legs **22** and a pair of poles  
20 **24** extending upwardly from the legs **22**.

21

22                 The poles **24** preferably extend upwardly at an outward angle as best illustrated  
23 in Figure 5 of the drawings. While Figures 1 through 8 illustrate an exemplary support  
24 frame **20**, it can be appreciated that various other structures may be utilized to support  
25 the cradle frame **30**.

26

27   *C. Cradle Frame*

28                 The cradle frame **30** has opposing ends pivotally attached to the support frame  
29 **20** by a pair of flexible support members **50** as shown in Figures 1 through 5 of the

1 drawings. The support members **50** may be comprised of rope, cable, chain or any  
2 other flexible structure. As shown in Figures 1 through 4 of the drawings, the support  
3 members **50** are preferably attached to the opposing sides of the ends of the cradle  
4 frame **30** and are tapered inwardly to attached to an upper portion of the poles **24**.

5

6 As best illustrated in Figures 3, 6 and 7 of the drawings, the cradle frame **30** has  
7 a middle section **31** surrounded by two opposing side sections **33**. The side sections **33**  
8 are preferably at an angle  $\Theta$  with respect to the middle section **31** forming a concave  
9 structure as best illustrated in Figure 6 of the drawings. The angle  $\Theta$  is preferably the  
10 same for both of the side sections **33**, however the angle  $\Theta$  may differ. The angle  $\Theta$  is  
11 preferably approximately 45 degrees, however greater or less angles may be utilized  
12 for the angle  $\Theta$ .

13

14 The middle section **31** and the side sections **33** preferably have a substantially  
15 straight structure as shown in Figures 3, 6 and 7 of the drawings. The cradle frame **30**  
16 includes a plurality of rib members **34** and cross member **36** attached to the rib  
17 members **34** as illustrated in Figure 3 of the drawings.

18

19 The cradle frame **30** includes a pair of opposing end members **32** extending  
20 from opposing sides of the cradle frame **30** as best illustrated in Figures 1 through 4 of  
21 the drawings. The end members **32** extend upwardly for receiving a mattress **60**  
22 between thereof.

23

24 A mattress **60** or similar structure is preferably positionable upon the cradle  
25 frame **30** for supporting an individual as shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings.  
26 One or more pillows **62** may be positioned upon the mattress **60** as desired.

27

1    ***D.      Catch Member***

2       A catch member **40** is attachable between the support frame **20** and the cradle  
3       frame **30** to retain the cradle frame **30** in a sofa position as shown in Figure 8 of the  
4       drawings. The catch member **40** has a hooked end for selectively engaging the cradle  
5       frame **30**, such as one of the rib members **34**.

6

7    ***E.      Operation of Invention – Hammock Position***

8       When utilizing the present invention as a hammock (Figures 1 through 7), the  
9       user approaches one of the side sections **33** of the cradle frame **30**. The user then  
10      pushes (or sits) upon the selected side section **33** thereby causing the cradle frame **30**  
11      to pivot within the support frame **20** as shown in Figure 2 of the drawings. The  
12      downward force applied to the raised selected side section **33** causes the selected side  
13      section **33** to lower to a substantially horizontal state.

14

15       Once the cradle frame **30** is positioned in the entry position (Figures 2 and 7),  
16       the user then enters the cradle frame **30** and proceeds to the middle section **31**. As the  
17       user approaches the middle section **31**, the cradle frame **30** returns to its normal  
18       position as shown in Figures 1 and 6 of the drawings.

19

20       To exit the cradle frame **30**, the user simply moves towards one of the side  
21       sections **33** thereby causing the selected side section **33** to lower (similar to entering).  
22       The user is then able to easily exit the cradle frame **30**.

23

24    ***F.      Operation of Invention – Sofa Position***

25       When utilizing the present invention in the sofa position (Figure 8), the user  
26       pivots the cradle frame **30** within the support frame **20** as shown in Figure 8 of the  
27       drawings. The user then attaches the catch member **40** to the cradle frame **30** (e.g. a  
28       rib member **34**). The user then releases the cradle frame **30** wherein the cradle frame  
29       **30** is retained in the sofa position where the user may freely sit and exit from the cradle

1 . frame **30** similar to a sofa as shown in Figure 8 of the drawings without the cradle  
2 frame **30** moving significantly. To release the cradle frame **30** from the sofa position,  
3 the user merely releases the catch member **40** thereby releasing the cradle frame **30**.  
4

5 As to a further discussion of the manner of usage and operation of the present  
6 invention, the same should be apparent from the above description. Accordingly, no  
7 further discussion relating to the manner of usage and operation will be provided.  
8

9 With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum  
10 dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size,  
11 materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are  
12 deemed to be within the expertise of those skilled in the art, and all equivalent  
13 structural variations and relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and  
14 described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.  
15

16 Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of  
17 the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to  
18 those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction  
19 and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and  
20 equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.